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SUBJECT: 2010 INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL STRATEGY REPORT  
(INCSR) FOR LITHUANIA PART I, DRUGS AND CHEMICAL CONTROL

REF(S): SECSTATE 97228

11. Below, in the format requested in the instructions, is the 2010 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report for Lithuania, Part I: Drugs and Chemical Control:

#### I. Summary

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Synthetic drugs and cannabis are the most popular illicit narcotics in Lithuania. Lithuania remains a source country for synthetic drugs, as well as a transit route for heroin and other illicit drugs. The Government of Lithuania continued to strengthen efforts to deal with drug trafficking. Seizures of cocaine and heroin significantly increased. The number of people who tried drugs at least once in their lives increased by 67 percent compared to 2004. The number of drug-related crimes increased by 11 percent. Lithuania is a party to the 1988 UN Drug Convention.

#### II. Status of Country

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According to the 2008 general population survey on the prevalence of drug use in Lithuania, carried out by the Narcotics Control Department (NCD) every four years, about 12.5 percent of Lithuanians of 15-64 years of age said they had tried drugs at least once in their lifetime compared to 7.5 percent in 2004. While the same percentage (11.9 percent) of Lithuanians said they tried cannabis at least once in their lifetime in 2008 as in 2004, consumption of Ecstasy has increased -- in 2008, 2.1 percent of Lithuanians said they had tried Ecstasy at least once in their lives in comparison to one percent in 2004. The relatively low price of these synthetic drugs is one of the main reasons for their popularity. Most drug abuse takes place in nightclubs and discos. Lithuanian enforcement officers also consider prescription tranquilizers a problem -- the NCD estimates that about 20 percent of the adult population is misusing or abusing them.

According to the Lithuanian Statistics Department, 60 people died of narcotic or psychotropic substances in 2008, down from 72 people in 12007. Two-thirds of the casualties were accidental overdoses. Nearly all drug victims (92 percent) were male.

In 2008, 273 persons applied to medical institutions for treatment of drug addictions. The number of patients overall was 5,800 at the end of 2008 (compared to 5,700 in 2007), and approximately 80 percent of these patients were men. Of those getting treatment, 80 percent had been abusing opiates.

#### Country Actions Against Drugs in 2009

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Policy Initiatives. Lithuania's Ministry of Interior, Ministry of

Education and Science, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Security and Labor, NCD, police, and other institutions implemented a National Program on Drug Control and Prevention of Drug Addiction for 2004-2008. In July, the Government submitted to the Parliament a new National Programme on Drug Control and Prevention of Drug Addiction for 2009-2016, but as of November 1 it had not been approved nor had any budget been allocated. Lithuania has tightened the control of precursors, chemical substances that can be used in the production of narcotics. In July, the Parliament amended the Code of Administrative Violations to impose fines on persons or organizations that do not cooperate with state-authorized officials checking on proper use and handling of precursors. Lithuania increased funding to the National Drug Prevention and Control Program from 14.6 million LTL (USD 5.4 million) in 2007 to 19.1 million LTL (USD 7 million) in 2008.

Law Enforcement Efforts. As of October 2009, Lithuanian law enforcement officials had recorded 1,557 drug related crimes, compared to 1,391 in 2008, 1,198 in 2007 and 1,393 in 2006. As of October 2009, police and customs in cooperation with other countries' law enforcement agencies had seized 57.3 kg of cannabis seeds, 1.2kg of heroin, 5.8 kg of Ecstasy, 10.2 kg of hashish, 5.8 kg of cocaine and 64.7 kg of methamphetamines. Lithuanian authorities also seized small quantities (less than five kilograms each) of LSD, hallucinogenic mushrooms, various psychotropic drugs, and various precursors.

Lithuania worked effectively with international partners to break up drug smuggling operations in 2009, making important seizures in cooperation with Belarusian, French, Norwegian, Swedish, Estonian, Latvian, Russian and Polish law enforcement partners. For example: In 2009, police seized 14 kg of methamphetamines in Norway and 32 kg

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in Sweden, resulting in the arrest of six Lithuanians and three Norwegian citizens who had been trafficking drugs into Lithuania. In cooperation with Russian counterparts, police seized 27 kg of hashish in Russia and arrested four Lithuanians.

In 2009, police shut down one laboratory producing high-quality methamphetamines, confiscating 50 kg of the drug in the process.

As of October 1, 2009, the Lithuanian court system adjudicated 866 drug-related cases and convicted 904 persons. Sentences for trafficking or distribution of drugs range from fines to 12 years of imprisonment.

Corruption. The Special Investigation Service (STT) established in 1997, has coordinated the Government of Lithuania's national anti-corruption program since 2002. The task of the STT is to collect and use intelligence about criminal associations and corrupt public officials as well as carry out anti-corruption prevention activities. There were no reports of drug-related corruption involving Lithuanian government officials. The Government of Lithuania does not, as a matter of policy, encourage or facilitate illicit production or distribution of narcotic or psychotropic drugs or other controlled substances, or the laundering of proceeds from illegal drug transactions. No senior official is known to engage in, encourage, or facilitate narcotics production or trafficking, or the laundering of proceeds from illegal drug transactions.

Treaties and Agreements. Lithuania is a party to the 1988 UN Drug Convention, the 1971 UN Convention against Psychotropic Substances, and the 1961 UN Single Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol. Lithuania also is a party to the UN Convention against Corruption, and the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols against trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling, and illegal manufacturing and trafficking in firearms. In addition, Lithuania and the United States have concluded protocols to the extradition and mutual legal assistance treaties pursuant to the 2003 U.S.-EU extradition and mutual legal assistance agreements. The protocols are pending entry into force. An extradition treaty and mutual legal assistance treaty are in force between the United States and Lithuania.

Cultivation/Production. Laboratories in Lithuania illegally produce

amphetamines for both domestic use and export, according to the Lithuanian Ministry of Interior. Law enforcement agencies regularly find and destroy small plots of cannabis and opium poppies used to produce opium straw extract for local consumption.

Drug Flow/Transit. According to Lithuanian law enforcement agencies, Lithuanian-produced synthetic drugs have been intercepted in Germany, Poland, and Denmark and also en route to Sweden and Norway. Customs agents have seized drugs entering Lithuania from all frontiers - cocaine and ecstasy enter the country via Western Europe; amphetamines and other synthetic drugs are produced in country, in the neighboring Baltic States, or in Poland; and heroin typically arrives from Central Asia via Russia and Belarus. Domestically grown poppy straw satisfies local demand and is also exported to Russia's Kaliningrad region and to Latvia.

Domestic Programs/Demand Reduction. Lithuania operates five national drug dependence centers and ten regional public health centers. In 2008 the Government allocated to NGOs approximately \$220,000 (521,000 Litass) for implementation of 78 prevention and supply-and-demand reduction projects targeted toward "at-risk" youth and their parents. The Government has also continued implementation of a drug prevention teaching program for parents and the prevention project "Entertainment Without Narcotics," targeted at public discos and nightclubs. The Government continued implementing demand-reduction programs and developed a classified information database about persons who received these services. In 2008-2009, about 3,000 persons used the services of 11 Government-financed harm-reduction centers that provided needle exchanges, methadone, medical exams and other services.

#### IV. U.S. Policy Initiatives and Programs

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Bilateral Cooperation. Law enforcement cooperation continues to be an area of great success, a result of several years of legal reform and law enforcement training. In 2008 and 2009, four Lithuanian police officers participated in U.S. Government-sponsored training in the United States, geared toward criminal investigation. In October 2008 the United States and Lithuania signed a cooperation agreement on crime prevention. In 2008 Lithuania was accepted into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program in part because of the level of law enforcement cooperation between the two countries. The United States has successfully cooperated with the Lithuanian authorities in

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numerous investigations involving fraud, narcotics trafficking, money laundering, and other crimes.

The Road Ahead. The United States will continue cooperating with Lithuanian institutions to support drug prevention activities and fight against narcotics trafficking.

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